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DOCUMENT NO. 18
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO TH 6
NEXT REVIEW DATE 2010
AUTH: MA 14-2
DATE: 5 JUN 1980 REVIEWER:

21 November 1959

Copy No. C 65

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

21 November 1959

DAILY BRIEF

II. ASIA-AFRICA

DK

Algeria-France: Action by the Algerian rebels in empowering five leaders imprisoned in France to discuss guarantees for self-determination is in response to De Gaulle's repeated urgings that the rebels send truce emissaries to Paris. The rebels' move reflects their distrust concerning the protocol treatment which might be accorded a delegation sent from Tunis, and their desire to avoid any appearance of capitulation. The action was probably also taken with an eye to its propaganda value prior to the UN debate expected in early

December on the Algerian problem. The rebels are unlikely to undertake cease-fire negotiations prior to the UN debate.

*De Gaulle probably wants to clarify his self-determination proposal before the UN acts, but his reluctance to accept these rebel emissaries underscores his unwillingness to undertake talks which would be construed as political negotiations rather than a military cease-fire discussion. [REDACTED] (Page 1) 25X1

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[redacted]
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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Algerian Rebels Name Cease-Fire Negotiators

The Algerian rebels have responded to De Gaulle's reiterated suggestion that they send truce emissaries to Paris by empowering five leaders imprisoned in France to discuss guarantees for self-determination. The prisoners include the rebels' deputy premier, Mohamed ben Bella, who was captured in 1956 when the French Air Force caused the airliner in which he was traveling from Rabat to Tunis to land in Algiers.

The naming of the imprisoned leaders reflects rebel distrust regarding the treatment which might be accorded a delegation sent from Tunis. The rebels have been reluctant to go to Paris, fearing they might be required to meet with low-level French military officers rather than a high-level representative of De Gaulle. Moreover, the appointment of prisoners as negotiators serves to avoid any appearance of capitulation, while underscoring the rebel desire for a settlement. The rebels, however, may expect no substantive negotiations until after the UN debate on Algeria, probably early in December. They probably hope for a resolution favoring a negotiated settlement which would strengthen their bargaining position.

De Gaulle wants to avoid any implication that an Algerian settlement is subject to outside pressure. In his 16 September and 10 November statements, De Gaulle committed France to a broad program which gives him freedom to discuss the political future of Algeria with the rebels. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] De Gaulle would be willing to discuss "all aspects" of the rebels' future now, but cautions that he would be "unable" to do so after a UN debate, particularly if the Algerians came bearing a UN resolution calling for negotiations. [redacted]

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The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs

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The Secretary of the Navy

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The Director, The Joint Staff

Chief of Staff, United States Army

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Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

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